PREDATORS OF *GONIPTERUS PLATENSIS* (MARELLI, 1926) (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE) LARVAE IN ANTIOQUIA, COLOMBIA

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**Introduction**

The eucalyptus snout beetle, *Gonipterus spp.*, are a pest of eucalyptus worldwide (Figure 1). *Gonipterus platensis* was first reported in Colombia in 2016, threatening and causing economic losses in more than 60,000 ha of Eucalyptus spp. planted in the country. Classical biological control of these species has been effective in some countries with *Anaphes niten* (Girault) and *A. inexpectatus* Huber & Prinsloo, 1990 (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae), and complemented with different natural enemies (NE) (Nascimento et al. 2017).

**Goal**

The goal of this work was to survey natural enemies of *G. platensis* larvae and adults in its current distribution in Antioquia (Colombia), as first steps for an integrated pest management program (IPMP).

**Methods**

Larvae of *G. platensis* were surveyed from 24th January 2019 to 27th March 2019 for the presence of these species for population control should be assessed in order to be included in an IPMP. However, the of *Podisus congrex*, also found preying on *G. platensis* in this research. *H. axyridis* have minimal side-effects on other native species compared to exotic species (Torres et al. 2006), as the species are native species, important step in the development of IPMP for *G. platensis*. As both *Podisus* larvae, what constitutes an im-

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**Results and discussion**

Adults of *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas) (Coccinellidae: Coccinellinae) (Figure 2), the multicolored Asian lady beetle, are an invasive species, were observed drumming larvae and egg capsules with antennae in Caldas and Rionegro municipalities and plantations (Santa Rosa de Osos, Medellin and Caldas municipalities) in Antioquia, Colombia. Caldas and Rionegro were sampled twice. 165 larvae of different stages were collected from shoots and youngest leaves, 20.6 on average/locality, where NE were also surveyed. Larvae were maintained at room conditions (26-30 °C, 70-80% HR) for fourteen days.

Adults and nymphs of *Podisus congrex* (Stål, 1862) (Pentatomidae: Asopinae) (Figure 3, Figure 4), possible first Colombian report, were observed in Caldas and Rionegro municipalities preying on larvae of different stages. Eleven nymphs were reared feeding on larvae of different development. No parasitoids emerged or visible evidence of parasitism was noticed. *P. congrex* is a predator with generalist feeding behavior. *Podisus nigrispinus* Dallas (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), species native to Brazil, which feeds primarily on insect larvae (Torres et al. 2006), was reported preying on larvae and adults of *G. platensis* in Brazil (Nascimento et al. 2017). These authors also indicate that laboratory evidence indicates that this species is an efficient native predator of *G. platensis* larvae, what constitutes an important step in the development of IPMP for *G. platensis*. As both *Podisus* species are native species, have minimal side-effects on other native species compared to exotic species (Torres et al. 2006), as *H. axyridis*, also found preying on *G. platensis* in this research.

*Podisus congrex* has potential to be used as biological agents to control *G. platensis*. However, the of these species for *G. platensis* population control should be assessed in order to be included in an IPMP.

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**References**

